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England respectively, yet also embraced an idea of European civilisation (Christoph Jahr, Berlin).

A conference report by Steven Schouten highlights the wide-ranging key note lecture by Professor Ulrich Wyrwa (Potsdam/Berlin), who compared 'spaces of experience' and 'horizons of expectation' on different sides of the front and in different countries. According to Wyrwa, the First World War decisively disrupted the unity of European Jewry and the balance of loyalties that existed before 1914. The war forced Jews to take sides, leading in part to the collapse of transnational bonds between friends, colleagues and families. But the impact of war experiences was by no means coherent and simultaneous, for they affected nations in different ways. For Wyrwa, it was the 'whole nexus of war, revolution and counter-revolution' that created a radically new situation, characterised by feelings of both hope and despair about Jewish emancipation and civil rights.

The conference report has been published on the academic network HSozKult and can be accessed via the following link:

<https://nkn.berlin/2016/11/10/2016-7048>

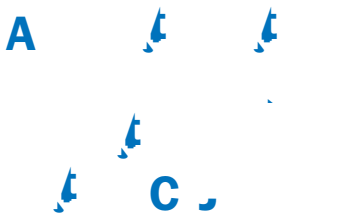
Edward Timms with Jonathan Wittenberg at the New North London Synagogue

On 10 November 2016, in partnership with the Centre for German-Jewish Studies, the Austrian Cultural Forum in London presented this event in memory of our former support group member, Vienna-born Evi Wohlgemuth. This year's lecture was delivered by the former Austrian Ambassador in London, Dr Eva Nowotny. She discussed some of

the most pressing issues Europe faces as well as the transatlantic relationship, Europe's role in the world and the challenges of global governance. Ambassador Nowotny is President of the Austrian UNESCO Commission and Chair of the Board of the University of Vienna.

Dr Nowotny studied history and German philology and

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David Neuberger

The Right Hon the Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury, President of the Supreme Court, has graciously consented to become President of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies. He is the eldest of four sons of Albert Neuberger, who was born in Bavaria. Having foreseen Hitler's persecution of the Jews, Albert fled to England in 1933, where he married the artist Lilian Dreyfus and became Professor of Chemical Pathology at the University of London.

David Neuberger was educated at Westminster School, and studied chemistry at Oxford University. Upon graduation, he worked at the merchant bank N M Rothschild & Sons, before joining the bar. With characteristic modesty, he has observed that he was 'even less good at finance than at science', so that the law was 'a case of third time lucky'.

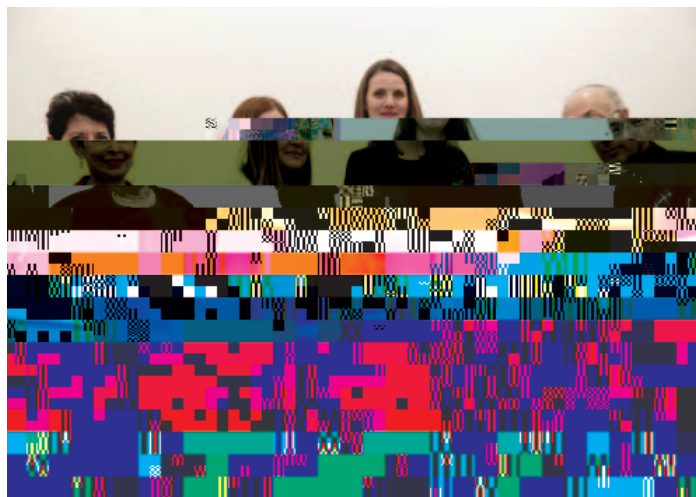
A property law expert, he worked his way up as a QC and High Court judge to the position of Lord Justice of Appeal, where he was in charge of modernizing the civil justice system, before becoming the youngest Law Lord in 2007. His rise to the Court of Appeal and then to the House of Lords is one of the quickest in recent times. He has gained popularity among the legal profession for his approachable manner, off-beat speeches and fondness for quoting Kafka and Wittgenstein.

Lord Neuberger's extrajudicial activities include being chairman of the advisory committee on the spoliation of art (artworks looted during the Third Reich), chairman of the Schizophrenia Trust and a governor of the University of the Arts London.

The 2016 Yad Vashem International Book Prize for Holocaust Research has been awarded to Dr Kim Wünschmann, Acting Deputy Director of the Centre for German-Jewish Studies and DAAD Lecturer in Modern European History, for her book

. The Prize has been established in memory of survivor Abraham Schwartzbaum and his family members who were murdered in the Holocaust. The Yad Vashem International Institute for Holocaust Research bestows this award annually upon a scholar who has published ground-breaking research in Holocaust studies.

The ceremony, which took place in Jerusalem on 13 December 2016, was led by Prof. Dina Porat, Yad Vashem Chief Historian. The award was presented by Prof. Dan Michman, Head of Yad Vashem's International Institute for Holocaust Research and holder of the John Najmann Chair for Holocaust Studies. Quoting from the judges' report, Prof Michman offered the following assessment: 'In her superbly researched and



Yad Vashem Book Prize award ceremony showing (from left to right) Prof. Dina Porat; Director General of Yad Vashem, Dorit Novak; Dr Kim Wünschmann and Prof. Dan Michman

richly documented study, which systematically integrates perspectives and voices, Wünschmann has provided a broad description of the special treatment of Jewish inmates, offering detailed evidence for an understanding of the place of Jews in the pre-war camps, which, until now, was largely based on anecdotal evidence. This alone justifies a close reading of . What turns the book into a major contribution to Holocaust scholarship are the implications of this special treatment of Jews in the pre-war camps for our understanding of the quick acculturation of the German public to the idea that the Jewish neighbour was an enemy to be extirpated, first from civil society and ultimately from the world.'



Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg speaking to students at Sussex University

The Centre was delighted to welcome Rabbi Jonathan Wittenberg to Sussex on 5 April 2017. Over sixty students came to hear him speak about his most recent publication: , a story of tenacity, faith and the struggle to survive.

Growing up in the safety of Britain, Jonathan was deeply conscious of his heritage as the child of refugees, although there was so much he failed to ask while those who could have answered his questions were still alive. After burying his Aunt Steffi in the Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, Jonathan accompanied his cousin Michal as she cleared the flat in Jerusalem where other family members had lived since fleeing Germany. In an old suitcase on the balcony they discovered a linen bag containing a bundle of letters left untouched for decades.

Jonathan felt enthralled as he deciphered the faded writing on long-forgotten letters that set him on his quest to uncover the painful details of family history. The wartime correspondence of his great-grandmother Regina and his grandmother, aunts and uncles enabled him to weave together the story of a rabbinical family struggling to resist the repressive policies of the Nazi regime. This well-researched and vividly illustrated book commemorates a family whose lives were as fragile

